# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CARLOS RIVERA,

v.

NO.

Plaintiff,

CLARENCE WALDNER and WALDNER TRUCKING and WALDNER TRUCKING LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a WALDNER TRUCKING COMPANY and JOHN DOE DRIVER,

:

**Defendants.** 

## **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

Defendants, Clarence Waldner and Josh Waldner, d/b/a Waldner Trucking Company, incorrectly identified as Waldner Trucking and Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner Trucking Company, (hereinafter "Defendants"), hereby file the within Notice of Removal to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, stating as follows:

#### **Alleged Facts:**

- 1. Plaintiff's claims arise from an allegation that he was operating a Toyota Corolla on January 3, 2020 in Philadelphia County when he involved in a motor vehicle accident with a tractor/trailer owned by Waldner Trucking and operated by Clarence Waldner. (A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit "A.")
- 2. Plaintiff instituted this action in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County by filing a Civil Action Complaint on December 28, 2021, at docket number 211201864. (A true and correct copy of the docket is attached hereto as Exhibit "B.").

- 3. Plaintiff, in his Complaint, is demanding judgment against Defendants on grounds of negligence for an amount in excess of \$50,000.00 in accordance with Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. (See Complaint, Ex. "A.")
  - 4. There is no service to date.

## **Diversity of Citizenship:**

- 5. Plaintiff, based on information and belief and as alleged in his Complaint, is a citizen of Pennsylvania. (See Complaint, Ex. "A," ¶¶ 1-2.)
  - 6. Defendant Clarence Waldner resides at 2820 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Taunton, MN 56291-180.
- 7. Defendant Waldner Trucking, incorrectly identified as "Waldner Trucking and Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner Trucking Company" is a South Dakota corporation with its principal place of business located at 206 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Hartford, SD 57033-2219.
- 8. It is alleged that Co-Defendant John Doe Driver has a place of business and/ or address at 205 N. Eastern, #7, Hartford, SD 57033.
- 9. In determining whether a civil action is removable on the basis of diversity, the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names, like John Doe (1-50) in the within action, shall be disregarded. See 28 USC 1441 (b)(1)
- 10. Accordingly, because Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different states, complete diversity of citizenship exists between the parties in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

#### **Amount in Controversy:**

11. In the Complaint, Plaintiff Carlos Rivera seeks to recover for injuries sustained injuries to his neck, back, spine, head, body and limbs. (See Complaint, Ex. "A," ¶ 8.)

- 12. Plaintiff alleges that his injuries are permanent and that he continues to suffer pain. (See Complaint, Ex. "A," ¶ 9.)
- 13. Plaintiff alleges he has or may suffer lost income and loss of earning capacity. (See Complaint, Ex. "A," ¶ 11.)
- 14. Plaintiff alleges that she has and may incur future medical expenses due to her injuries. (See Complaint, Ex. "A," ¶ 10.)
- 15. Plaintiff demands for the imposition of punitive damages. (See Ex. "A," ad damnum clauses).
- 16. Plaintiff's allegations of physical injury, coupled with allegations of loss of earnings, mental anguish and permanency make this a claim where a verdict could undoubtedly exceed the \$75,000.00 jurisdictional threshold.
- 17. A cursory verdict search on Lexis Nexis for premises liability cases with similar injuries resulted in verdicts ranging from \$75,000 through \$265,194 as follows:
  - a. Cameron v. Kamu; CCP Philadelphia County, allegations of multiple disc pathology,
     October 30, 2019 verdict of \$75,000;
  - b. *Romanick v. Krivorutskaja*; CCP Philadelphia County, allegations of disc pathology, March 25, 2010 verdict of \$200,000; and
  - c. *Riley v Harrington;* CCP Philadelphia County, allegations of disc pathology, January 15, 2015 verdict of \$265,194.

(See Pennsylvania case summaries from Lexis Nexis attached hereto and marked collectively as Exhibit "C.")

18. In accordance with §1332, this case involves (a) injuries, which, as alleged, could exceed \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs; and (b) is between citizens of different states. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(3).

19. Additionally, in accordance with applicable Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Statutes, namely 28 U.S.C.A. §1446(b), this Notice of Removal was filed within thirty (30) days after Defendants received service of Plaintiff's Complaint. <u>See Johnson v. Vertis, Inc.</u>, 2002 WL 31388817 (E.D. Pa.)(citing 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)).

20. Accordingly, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332, this is a civil action that may be removed by Defendants and over which this Court has original jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Clarence Waldner and Josh Waldner, d/b/a Waldner Trucking Company, incorrectly identified as Waldner Trucking and Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner Trucking Company, respectfully request that the aforementioned civil action commenced against it be removed to this Court for all further proceedings.

#### CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By: /s/Amy G. Wirth
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Josh Waldner, d/b/a Waldner Trucking Company,
incorrectly identified as Waldner Trucking and
Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Amy G. Wirth, Esquire, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of Defendants, Clarence Waldner and Josh Waldner, d/b/a Waldner Trucking Company, incorrectly identified as Waldner Trucking and Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner Trucking Company's foregoing Notice of Removal will be served this date as follows:

- a. Electronically by the Court upon all counsel of record who are registered to receive same; or
- b. By First Class Mail, postage pre-paid, in accordance with Pennsylvania and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, upon the below counsel should they not be electronically served by the Court:

Matthew Breslin, Esquire Rodden & Rodden 125 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

#### CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By: /s/Amy G. Wirth
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Attorney for Defendants, Clarence Waldner and
Josh Waldner, d/b/a Waldner Trucking Company,
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Waldner Trucking LLC d/b/a and/or a/k/a Waldner

Date: January 11, 2022